

Socially and Environmentally Responsible Aggregate (SERA) Commends Today's Announcement to Review the Aggregate Resources Act

Toronto, ON, September 20, 2011 /CNW/ - This morning the Ontario Liberal Party announced a commitment to review the *Aggregate Resources Act*. As an organization dedicated to establishing world-class standards and independent certification of aggregates, Socially and Environmentally Responsible Aggregate (SERA) is encouraged by this timely announcement.

"We're pleased that the Ontario Liberal Party intends to build upon the work of voluntary standards initiatives like SERA and take a look at the Aggregates policy in Ontario. If there's one point on which all sides can agree – environmentalists, community leaders, aggregate producers, and public officials – the existing system is not working as effectively as it could. Costly, unpredictable and protracted processes serve no-one's interests, least of all taxpayers, community groups, and job-creating enterprises," said Michael Fenn, interim Chair, SERA.

"As a new organization developing voluntary, third party audited certification standards for the aggregate sector we have been encouraged by the wide array of industry, community, governmental and environmental leaders who share these goals and who are now working with us to make them happen quickly."

While a review of the *Aggregate Resources Act* is important to establish minimum requirements for aggregate extraction in Ontario, it is also important that companies are encouraged to pursue industry best-practices that help them to secure a positive social license to operate. In combination with a robust voluntary certification system like SERA, a review of the *Aggregate Resources Act* has the potential to ensure that aggregate practices in Ontario meet world-class expectations for both social issues (e.g. noise, dust, consultation with native and non-native communities, etc) and environmental issues (siting, water and habitat protection, reclamation, etc).

About SERA (www.seracanada.ca)

Socially and Environmentally Responsible Aggregate (SERA) is a not-for-profit organization that convenes industry, environmental, community and First Nations interests to develop third party audited standards for environmentally and socially responsible sourced construction materials. SERA's initial focus is on establishing a voluntary certification system to promote responsibly sourced aggregate materials in Ontario, offering operators an innovative way to demonstrate their efforts to recognize and address the social and environmental expectations of local communities and the broader society.

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